



United States Department of
Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Ohio Agricultural
Statistics Service
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No. 1 March 31, 2003

OHIO

WEEKLY CROP - PROGRESS SUMMARY

OHIO CROP-WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

The average temperature for the State was 51.7 degrees, 7.5 degrees above normal for the week ending Sunday, March 30. Precipitation averaged 0.86 inches, 0.15 inches above normal. Growing degree days were 20 points above normal.

Reporters rated 2.4 days suitable for fieldwork during the seven-day period ending Friday, March 28. This is 1.8 days more than last year and 1.1 days less than the five-year average. Topsoil moisture was rated 0 percent very short, 3 percent short, 64 percent adequate, and 33 percent surplus.

Days Suitable

	Current week	Previous week	Since 1 st week of April
2003	2.4	NA	2.4
2002	0.6	NA	0.6
1998-2002 Average	3.5	NA	3.5

Topsoil Moisture

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Current Week	0	3	64	33
Last Week	NA	NA	NA	NA
Same Week Last Year	0	2	49	49
1998-2002 Average	2	15	65	18

FIELD ACTIVITIES AND CROP PROGRESS WEEK ENDING SUNDAY MARCH 30

Reporters estimated **Tobacco** growers have 20 percent of their beds seeded. Six percent of tobacco beds have visible plants up. **Winter wheat** is one percent jointed, this is three percent below last year and the five year average. One percent of the **Oat** crop has been planted. This is four percent below 2002 and 10 percent below the five year average.

Farmers in Ohio began prepping their equipment for the spring planting season. Most tillage work was put on hold until the fields have dried out. However, Amish farmers were seen plowing their fields. Producers reported purchasing seed and chemicals. Some began seeding cover crops, planting vegetables, fertilizing fields and spreading manure. Farmers continued removing stored grain and hauling it to local elevators.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS

Pasture conditions continue to improve with warmer weather toward the end of March. Reporters rated 49 percent of pasture good and 36 percent fair. Grass has begun to grow but more time is needed before cattle will have adequate forage.

Livestock producers rated 66 percent of their animals in good condition with spring calving proceeding as normal. Some producers continue to feed hay until pasture conditions improve.

PERCENT PROGRESS OF CROPS FOR THE WEEK ENDING SUNDAY MARCH 30

Crop	2003	2002	1998-02 Average	Previous Week	
				Ohio	U.S.
Corn planted for grain	0	1	0	NA	NA
Oats planted	1	5	11	NA	NA
Potatoes planted	0	0	1	NA	NA
Tobacco beds sown or floated	20	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tobacco beds having plants up	6	1	2	NA	NA
Winter Wheat jointed	1	4	4	NA	NA

PERCENT CONDITION OF MAJOR CROPS FOR THE WEEK ENDING SUNDAY MARCH 30

LIVESTOCK	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Current Week	0	2	22	66	10
Previous Week	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Previous Year	0	3	24	62	11
PASTURE	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Current Week	1	9	36	49	5
Previous Week	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Previous Year	5	11	48	33	3
WINTER WHEAT	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Current Week	2	4	20	56	18
Previous Week	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Previous Year	3	9	39	41	8

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SUNDAY MARCH 30

	Temperature		Precipitation		Growing Degree Days ^{1/}	
Region	Last Week	Dev.	Last Week	Dev.	Last Week	Dev.
Northwest	49.2	7.1	0.85	0.21	41	20
North Central	50.6	8.4	0.93	0.30	43	22
Northeast	51.1	9.3	0.94	0.27	45	22
West Central	51.6	7.8	0.95	0.24	46	20
Central	52.5	7.6	0.97	0.28	51	21
Central Hills	51.6	8.3	1.02	0.33	46	20
Northeast Hills	52.1	8.1	0.76	0.10	46	18
Southwest	52.9	6.9	1.00	0.16	52	20
South Central	53.3	6.3	0.62	-0.17	57	18
Southeast	52.2	6.6	0.61	-0.10	54	20
STATE	51.7	7.5	0.86	0.15	48	20

1/ Modified Growing degree days, base 50 - ceiling 86.

NOTE: Our crop weather release is available by e-mail. To subscribe type in the Internet address of: nass-state-releases@news.usda.gov. Enter the following line in the body of the message; subscribe oh-crop-weather. Also check out our Home Page at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/oh/>. We are currently developing and adding more to our home page each week.

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